

THE MESSENGER



"... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

A Young Man's Pledge to His Date

Author Unknown

The parents of my girlfriend place their trust in me. I will not violate it.

I will respect my girlfriend as I expect other men to respect my sister.

I will respect womanhood because my mother is a woman. I will ask my girlfriend to do nothing I would be ashamed of if my mother found it out.

My girlfriend has given me the honor and pleasure of her company. It is wrong for me to expect more in payment for this date.

My girlfriend will be a wife and mother someday. She must be an example to her children and the pride of her husband. I will help her to be as pure and decent as I want my wife to be.

God is everywhere, sees everything, knows everything. Darkness may hide me from people, but it cannot hide me from God.

A Young Woman's Pledge to Her Date

Author Unknown

Our parents have trusted my date and me. I will not violate it.

I will look up to my date as I expect other women to respect my brother.

I will respect manhood because my Dad is a man. I will not tempt my date with immodest apparel, talk, or actions.

My date has honored me with the request for my time. I will act toward him with honor and not ask him to take me to improper places.

My date will be a husband and father someday. He must be the teacher of and example before his own children. I will do nothing with him that might harm his future influence in that work.

God is everywhere, sees everything, knows everything. Darkness may hide me from people, but it cannot hide me from God.

(Editor's Note: Please consider the following Bible texts in light of these promises - Prov. 10:1; 20:11; 23:12, 15-28; 29:15, 17; Eccl. 11:9-12:1; Eph. 6:1-3. Parents, perhaps you could post these pledges on your refrigerator or in some prominent place for the benefit of your teenaged children.)



The Secrecy of Motives

by L.A. Stauffer

Most standard dictionaries define “motive” as a conscious or unconscious need that drives or moves people to action. The essence of motives is that they form themselves and exist within the mind of man. This, of course, makes them difficult to judge.

Paul raised the point when discussing the work of the Holy Spirit: *“who among men knoweth the things of a man, say, the spirit of the man, which is in him?”* (I Cor. 2:11). He parallels God and man whose minds are known by their own spirits – but unknown to any other mortal.

What that says to every Christian is that they must be careful not to impugn the motives behind brethren’s actions. This must be left to God Who alone can *“bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and make manifest the counsels of the hearts”* (I Cor. 4:5).

This explains how Jesus, who was God in the flesh, could know the reasoning of the Pharisees and could examine their motives and know that they gave alms, prayed, or fasted *“that they may be seen of men”* (Matt. 6:5).

And that is precisely, as mere men, why we must leave such judgments to God. Yes, a Christian, as did the Pharisees, may do his works to receive the glory of men or for any number of other ulterior motives – but none of us can know that by simple observation of his deeds. A brother’s motives, unless he confesses otherwise, must be accepted as pure.

Some Christians may have thought Paul was motivated by lust for power when he persecuted the church, but the fact is that he did it in sincerity as a moral obligation to please God - thinking he *“ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth”* (Acts 26:9).

Yes, Paul was wrong and admits later he was the “chief of sinners”, but his motive was pure. To accept on the surface the purity of brethren’s motives is not only right, but spiritually healthy in promoting peaceful relationships among us.

NOTES & NEWS:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

James 5:16